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Police: 7 killed, 22 injured in West Texas shooting rampage

By PAUL J. WEBER and JAKE

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Associated Press

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Authorities said Sunday they still could not explain why a man with an AR-style weapon opened fire during a routine traffic stop in West Texas to begin a terrifying, 10-mile (16-kilometer) rampage that killed seven people, injured 22 others and ended with officers gunning him down outside a movie theater. Authorities identified the shooter as Seth Aaron Ator, 36, of Odessa.

Online court records show Ator was arrested in 2001 for a misdemeanor offense that would not have prevented him from legally purchasing firearms in Texas, although authorities have not said where Ator got his weapon.



Continued on Page 2

Authorities look at a U.S. Mail vehicle, which was involved in Saturday's shooting, outside the Cinergy entertainment center Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, in Odessa, Texas.

Associated Press



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Police: 7 killed, 22 injured in West Texas shooting rampage

Ator acted alone and federal investigators believe the shooter had no ties to any domestic or international terrorism group, FBI special agent Christopher Combs said. Authorities said those killed were between the ages of 15 and 57 years old but did not immediately provide a list of names. The injured included three law enforcement officers, as well as a 17-month-old girl who sustained injuries to her face and chest.

Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke refused to say the name of the shooter during a televised news conference, saying he wouldn't give him notoriety, but police later posted his name on Facebook. A similar approach has been taken in some other recent mass shootings.

Gerke said there were still no answers pointing to a motive for the chaotic rampage, which began Saturday afternoon when Texas state troopers tried pulling over a gold car on Interstate 20 for failing to signal a left turn.

Before the vehicle came to a complete stop, the driver "pointed a rifle toward the rear window of his car and fired several shots" toward the patrol car stopping him, according to Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Katherine Cesinger. The gunshots struck a trooper, Cesinger said, after which the gunman fled and continued shooting. He fired at random as he drove in the area of Odessa and Midland, two cities in the heart of Texas oil country more than 300 miles (483 kilometers) west of Dallas. At one point, he hijacked a mail carrier truck, killing the lone postal worker inside.

U.S. Postal Service officials identified her as Mary Granados, 29.

Police used a marked SUV to ram the mail truck outside the Cinegy Movie Theater in Odessa, disabling the vehicle. The gunman then fired at police, wounding two officers. Combs said the gunman might have entered the



Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke, center, answers a question concerning Saturday's shooting during a news conference Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, in Odessa, Texas. From left are Christopher Combs, FBI Special Agent in Charge, San Antonio, Gerke, and Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

Associated Press



Odessa police officers park their vehicle outside Music City Mall in Odessa, Texas, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019, as they investigate areas following a deadly shooting in the area of Odessa and Midland.

Associated Press

theater if police had not killed him.

"In the midst of a man driving down the highway shooting at people, local law enforcement and state troopers pursued him and stopped him from possibly going into a crowded movie theater and having another event of mass violence," Combs said.

Police said Ator had no outstanding warrants. His arrest in 2001 was around Waco, hundreds of miles east of Odessa. Online court records show he was charged then with misdemeanor criminal trespass and evading arrest. He entered guilty pleas in a deferred prosecution agreement where the charge was waived after he served 24 months of probation, according to records.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said a 17-month-old girl is recovering but faces surgery on Monday to remove shrapnel from her right chest. She also suffered injuries to her face. Abbott says the mother texted: "Her mouth is pretty bad, but will heal and can be fixed. Thankfully it doesn't seem like her jaw was hit. Just lips, teeth and tongue...We are thanking God for healing her and appreciate continued prayers."

The shooting came at the end of an already violent month in Texas, where on Aug. 3 a gunman in the border city of El Paso killed 22 people at a Walmart. Sitting beside authorities in Odessa, Abbott ticked off a list of mass shootings that have now killed nearly 70 since 2016 in his state

Saturday's shooting brings the number of mass killings in the U.S. so far this year to 25, matching the number in all of 2018, according to The AP/USATODAY/Northeastern University mass murder database. The number of people killed this year has already reached 142, surpassing the 140 people who were killed all last year. The database tracks homicides where four or more people are killed, not including the offender.

Witnesses described gunfire near shopping plazas and in busy intersections.

Dr. Nathaniel Ott was working at an Odessa emergency care center where he is the medical director when he heard gunshots. He rushed outside to find a woman in the driver's seat of an SUV bleeding from a gunshot wound in the arm. Ott said that as he and a paramedic were working on the woman, the shooter drove back by.

"The shooter drove within 30 feet of us and drove up that road," Ott said Sunday, pointing to one of the streets leading past the shopping center where his facility is located. "The shooter was driving. It was insane. He was just everywhere." Daniel Munoz, 28, of Odessa, was headed to a bar to meet a friend when he noticed the driver of an approaching car was holding what appeared to be a rifle. □

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Ohio attorney general sues to stop upcoming opioid trials

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Upcoming trials seen as test cases for forcing drugmakers to pay for societal damage inflicted by the opioid epidemic should be delayed until Ohio's own lawsuits against the drugmakers can be heard, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost argued in a lawsuit.

Yost, a Republican, said attempts to force drugmakers to pay should come in a single state action to allow equal distribution of money across Ohio. His lawsuit, filed Friday in federal appeals court in Cincinnati, comes amidst urgent negotiations over a potentially massive settlement between drugmakers and thousands of communities across the country.

The Ohio trials, involving claims brought by Cuyahoga and Summit counties in northeastern Ohio, are scheduled for October. They're considered "bellwether" trials to test claims being brought against the drugmakers.

"The hardest-hit counties of Appalachia and the vast majority of the state are being asked to take a number and wait — and that wait could delay or prevent justice," Yost said in a statement.

The federal litigation involving cities, counties and tribal governments is being overseen by a judge in Cleveland, who has been pushing for a national settlement before the first trial

starts in October. Many of those lawsuits target Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, a company seen as the villain in the opioid epidemic because of its aggressive marketing of the highly addictive painkiller. Published reports last week said the company was offering to settle for \$10 billion to \$12 billion, a move drawing criticism from some attorneys general who said it wasn't enough.

Yost's lawsuit angered communities scheduled to go to court as part of those bellwether trials. Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan, a Democrat, said Yost's filing ignores local governments' "constitutionally-protected interests" in seeking justice for taxpayers. "I stand with my fellow counties and cities in protecting what we have worked so hard to build together — viable, meaningful and necessary litigation against the opioid manufacturers that preyed upon our citizens and devastated our communities," Horrigan said.

Horrigan's sentiments echo what happened earlier this year in Oklahoma, when the state settled with Purdue for \$270 million. Many local governments in Oklahoma with their own lawsuits declined to request part of the money in order to pursue their own claims. A similar proposal by the Ohio Attorney General to consolidate local lawsuits drew heated criticism last week all the way up to the governor's office.

Draft legislation backed by Yost would consolidate all local lawsuits against opioid companies under a state umbrella and allow the state to negotiate on behalf of all residents and allot any settlement money accordingly.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a fellow Republican, called that a "serious mistake" and said he would never sign such a bill.

DeWine said the legal process should go through the court system since residents



In this Nov. 6, 2018 file photo, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost speaks at the Ohio Republican Party event in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

and local governments have "borne a great deal of that cost."

Earlier this month, two drug companies — Endo and Al-

lergan — settled with the two Ohio counties, with Endo agreeing to pay \$10 million and Allergan paying \$5 million. □

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Trump says he'll work with Congress to stop mass shootings

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump expressed a commitment Sunday, hours after the latest deadly mass shooting, to work with a divided Congress to "stop the menace of mass attacks." He said any measures must satisfy the competing goals of protecting public safety and the constitutional right to gun ownership and seemed to cast fresh doubt on the merits of instituting more thorough background checks for gun purchases.

Trump spoke shortly after the death toll in Saturday's rampage in West Texas rose to seven as authorities worked to understand why a man pulled over for a traffic infraction opened fire on state troopers and fled. He shot more than 20 people before he was killed by police. A motive has not been released.

The president said it would be "wonderful to say" he'd work to "eliminate" mass shootings, but acknowledged that that was un-



President Donald Trump speaks at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, in Washington.

likely.

"We want to substantially reduce the violent crime," Trump said at the top of a briefing about Hurricane Dorian at Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters in Washington.

Trump's commitment to gun control has been in

doubt ever since 17 students and adults were killed in a shooting at a Parkland, Florida, high school on Valentine's Day in 2018. Trump came out in favor of stronger background checks after the shooting, but then quickly retreated under pressure from the National Rifle Association, the politi-

Associated Press

cally powerfully gun owners' lobby that strongly backed his bid to become president.

More recently, he has waffled on the merits of stronger background checks for gun purchases in the aftermath of back-to-back shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, that killed more than 30 people about a month ago. Instead, Trump sought to elevate mental health issues over access to guns.

"For the most part, sadly, if you look at the last four or five (shootings) going back even five or six or seven years, for the most part, as strong as you make your background checks, they would not have stopped any of it," he said. "So it's a big problem. It's a mental problem. It's a big problem."

Trump mentioned the need for "strong measures to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous and deranged individuals" along with changes to a mental health system he described as "broken." He also called for ensuring that criminals with guns "are put behind bars and kept off the streets."

"Public safety is our No. 1 priority, always wanting to protect our Second Amendment. So important," he said, referring to the constitutional amend-

ment that established the right to keep and bear arms.

Trump told reporters earlier Sunday that he's been speaking to lawmakers from both political parties and "people want to do something." He said the administration is "looking at a lot of different things" and hopes to have a package ready by the time Congress returns to session next week.

The Republican-controlled Senate has refused to take up several gun-control bills that passed the Democratic-controlled House this year, and the GOP historically has opposed many efforts to strengthen the nation's gun laws.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on the Republican-controlled Senate to "end its obstruction" and send the gun violence measures to Trump.

Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania said he has discussed the issue with Trump and described the president as "very interested in doing something meaningful." Toomey has long pushed a bipartisan bill with Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia to expand background checks and said he remains interested in measures to keep guns away from people who shouldn't have them.

"We're going to take a very serious run at it," he said.

Scott, who was governor at the time of the Parkland school shooting, said officials sat down within days of the massacre with law enforcement, mental health counselors and educators. Legislation was quickly passed and signed into law, including a "red-flag" statute that would allow authorities to confiscate weapons from individuals deemed by the courts to be a threat to themselves or others.

Scott said he doesn't want to take guns away from law-abiding citizens, but added that "we've got to figure out how we get guns away from mentally ill people who want to harm others or themselves." □

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Clock is ticking on NY deadline for student vaccinations

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) —

When New York lawmakers revoked a religious exemption for mandatory school vaccinations, the change sent thousands of the state's parents scrambling to get their kids shots — or get them out of the classroom entirely. Lawmakers did away with the exemption in June amid the nation's worst measles outbreak since 1992. More than 26,000 children in public and private schools and day care centers had previously gone unvaccinated for religious reasons, according to the state Health Department.

Now time is running short. Unvaccinated students have 14 days from the start of school to prove they received the first dose of each immunization, and they must make appointments for the next round within a month. Most schools reopen just after Labor Day. Some parents opposed to vaccinations are choosing to pull their kids from school rather than comply.

"Those that are choosing to vaccinate, it's not because their beliefs have changed," said Jina Gentry, a Buffalo mother of four

who will home-school her children rather than have them vaccinated. She said not everyone has the means or time to do the same. At the private Aurora Waldorf School in suburban Buffalo, parents of 21 students said they would not be attending this fall, rather than rush to vaccinate, said administrator Anna Harp, who oversees about 175 students from preschool to eighth grade. "Some families have told us that they plan to home-school, and a few said that they were moving out of New York," Harp said. "Several families have told us that they plan to return once their children's immunizations are up to date."

New York became the fourth state, along with California, Mississippi and West Virginia, to eliminate religious and personal-belief exemptions for vaccines.

Maine will remove them in 2021. All states allow medical exemptions.

More than 1,200 cases of measles have been confirmed in 30 states this year, more than three-quarters of them linked to outbreaks in New York and New York City, the Centers for Disease Control reported.

Many of the New York

cases have been among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities. Resistance to vaccinations remains, despite scientific evidence that they are both safe and effective.

The state Health Department will audit schools to assure compliance with the new law and require unvaccinated students without a valid medical excuse to leave school, spokeswoman Jill Montag said. Schools already submit annual surveys about immunization coverage and are subject to spot checks to confirm their answers. Schools that violate the rules could face fines. "We do not anticipate having any problems securing compliance," Montag said



In this March 27, 2019, file photo, a woman receives a measles, mumps and rubella vaccine at the Rockland County Health Department in Pomona, N.Y.

Associated Press

teachings but rather personal beliefs, including that God created people with natural immunity against diseases.

A literacy coach for Buffalo Public Schools, she said her full workday will now be followed by lessons with her kids before and after dinner. □

Maryland: Man accused of ramming car into City Hall arrested

TANEYTOWN, Md. (AP) —

Police in a Maryland city arrested a "disgruntled resident" accused of intentionally ramming his car into City Hall and damaging the building, the city's mayor said Sunday.

The driver didn't injure the lone Taneytown city employee who was in the building on Friday evening when the car plowed into City Hall, Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

The Taneytown Police Department said in a statement posted on its Facebook page that the driver was arrested on charges

including second-degree assault, second-degree burglary, reckless driving and malicious destruction of property. The police statement doesn't name the suspect.

Police said witnesses saw the car repeatedly strike the building. Wantz said during a telephone interview that the man was angry because his water service had been shut off for failing to pay his bill.

"This was his response to that," the mayor added. The mayor says City Hall will remain closed through Tuesday. □

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Gun owners look beyond the NRA for representation

By LISA MARIE PANE

Associated Press

Bob Mokos is a passionate gun owner who on the surface would seem like a card-carrying National Rifle Association member.

The retired airline pilot has been shooting guns since he was a child. The Vietnam veteran got more serious about firearms as a civilian after one of his sisters was fatally shot during a mugging in Chicago. After the 9/11 terror attacks, he became qualified to carry a gun in the cockpit.

But Mokos has grown so disillusioned with the NRA over the years that he has joined forces with a rival organization — the gun control group founded by former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

"The more gun owners I contacted, the more I found out that everybody is thinking the same thing: The NRA does not speak for us," said Mokos, who was a founder of the Minnesota Gun Owners for Safety.

As the 2020 presidential campaign draws closer, gun control groups are seizing on the turmoil engulfing the NRA — as well as recent high profile shootings in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; Dayton, Ohio, and this weekend's in Odessa and Midland, Texas — to court firearms owners in hopes of persuading them that there can be bipartisan solutions to gun violence that don't infringe on their Second Amendment rights.

Giffords' group formed coalitions this year with gun owners in Colorado, Minnesota and Texas in outreach that managing director



Greg Pruett, president of the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, poses for a portrait in Caldwell, Idaho, on Aug. 29.

Robin Lloyd said was done expressly to show that not all gun owners believe in the NRA.

"The fallacy that the NRA has perpetuated for so long is that you're either for the Second Amendment or you're for taking away people's guns," Lloyd told the AP. At the same time, various pro-gun organizations at the state level have been more active in staking their claim as the true defenders of the Second Amendment. Many of those advocates see the NRA as too focused on raking in donations to fuel a large organization out of touch with American gun owners.

"I don't think anybody doubts, even the most ardent critics, that they're the biggest gun lobby on the block and probably

will be still for the foreseeable future," said Greg Pruett, president of Idaho Second Amendment Alliance. "But I think a lot of people are starting to realize ... we have this large machine but it's not doing what we're paying it to do, so where do we turn in the meantime until they either get things cleaned up? Or is the NRA done in some regards and we're going to suffer the consequences of their bad leadership at the ballot box?"

Long viewed as the most powerful gun lobby in the world, the NRA has been facing internal and external pressures over its operations and spending habits. Law enforcement authorities have launched probes that threaten its non-profit status and there has been a revolt by members who

Associated Press are questioning the NRA's finances and leadership.

The group's former president, Oliver North, and its longtime top lobbyist have left. Among the headline-grabbing details are allegations that its longtime CEO, Wayne LaPierre, expensed hundreds of thousands of dollars in wardrobe purchases from a Hollywood clothier and spent thousands traveling on private jets.

The NRA's problems have created fears among gun enthusiasts that rival organizations have found an opening to undermine the organization's mission to protect gun rights.

"Those folks are openly saying we have to move now while the NRA is in turmoil. They are very much trying to take advantage of this," said Tom Gresham, who

hosts the syndicated radio show, "Gun Talk."

But gun control groups trying to court politically moderate firearms enthusiasts still have a long way to go to wield the same power of the NRA.

In the wake of massacres that killed 31 people in Texas and Ohio, LaPierre has demonstrated his sway over President Donald Trump and the Republican-led Senate, where Democratic-sponsored gun legislation faces a grim fate. Trump voiced support for universal background checks after the shootings but backtracked after a phone call with LaPierre.

The NRA spent some \$30 million to help elect Trump in 2016 and remains a powerful force lobbying politicians and government officials. In the first half of this year, the NRA spent \$1.6 million lobbying Congress, the State and Justice Departments and other federal agencies on legislation that ranged from recreational shooting on federal lands to concealed firearms permits, according to disclosure records filed with the House and Senate.

The NRA donated \$4.1 million to candidates for federal office during the last four election cycles, with the bulk of the contributions going to Republican incumbents, according to figures compiled by the political money website Open Secrets. That figure pales in comparison to what the gun-rights group tallies on get-out-the-vote operations and advertising campaigns. □

RFK assassin Sirhan Sirhan stable after prison stabbing

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Sirhan Sirhan, imprisoned for more than 50 years for the 1968 assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was hospitalized Friday after being stabbed by a fellow inmate at a San Diego prison.

A statement from the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said the stabbing occurred Friday afternoon at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility near San Diego.

"Officers responded quickly, and found an inmate with stab wound injuries. He was transported to an outside hospital for medical care, and is currently in stable condition," the statement said.

The statement did not name Sirhan, but a gov-

ernment source with direct knowledge confirmed to The Associated Press that he was the victim. The source spoke under condition of anonymity, citing prison privacy regulations. The stabbing was first reported by TMZ.

Corrections officials reported that the alleged attacker has been identified and has been segregated from the rest of the prison population pending an investigation.

Sirhan, 75, was convicted of shooting Kennedy shortly after midnight on June 5, 1968, immediately after the New York senator had declared victory in the previous day's California Democratic presidential primary. Kennedy had just finished delivering his victory speech to cheering supporters at Los Angeles' Am-

bassador Hotel when he decided to walk through the hotel kitchen. He had stopped to shake hands with a busboy who had delivered food to his room the day before when he was shot in the head. He died the next day.

Sirhan was originally sentenced to death. But when California briefly outlawed capital punishment, his sentence was reduced to life in prison. He has been denied parole several times.

Five bystanders were wounded during the shooting. In the chaos, Los Angeles Rams football great Rosey Grier, Olympic champion Rafer Johnson and others wrestled the murder weapon away.

Over the years, Sirhan has claimed to have no recollection of the shooting or his initial confession.



In this Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016, file photo, Sirhan Sirhan reacts during a parole hearing at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego.

Associated Press

As a high-profile prisoner, Sirhan had once been kept in a protective housing unit at Corcoran State Prison in Northern California. After he told authorities several

years ago that he would prefer being housed with the general prison population, he was moved to the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility. □

'Straight pride' parade draws marchers, protesters



Counterprotesters, including one wearing a horse mask, line the route of the Straight Pride Parade in Boston, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019.

BOSTON (AP) — A "straight pride" parade and counter-demonstration went off in Boston Saturday without any major conflicts reported between the two groups.

An organization calling itself Super Happy Fun America announced the parade as Boston celebrated LGBTQ Pride Month earlier this summer, saying it believes straight people are an oppressed majority.

Counter-demonstrators accused those organizers of promoting an atmosphere of violence toward the LGBTQ community.

The parade, with marchers carrying signs such as "2020 Trump" and "Build The Wall," moved from Copley Plaza, through major downtown streets before ending with a rally at City Hall Plaza, where the crowd and speakers were outnumbered by those protesting them from behind barricades.

Several arguments and minor fights were reported on the parade route and police made over 30 arrests, but did not report any major confrontations. Four officers suffered minor injuries during the parade. □

Associated Press

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Far-right seen gaining but not winning in 2 German states

By GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A far-right party made strong gains in a pair of state elections in eastern Germany on Sunday, but mainstream opponents appeared set to salvage their position as the strongest parties in both regions, projections indicated.

Voters in Saxony, a region of around 4.1 million people bordering Poland and the Czech Republic, and neighboring Brandenburg, which has 2.5 million inhabitants and surrounds Berlin, elected new state legislatures.

All eyes were on the performance of the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, which is strongest in the ex-communist east, and on how badly Germany's governing parties would perform after a rough 18 months for Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition in Berlin. A symbolically important AfD win in either state could have further destabilized the national government.

"The good signal in both



Chairman of right-wing party Alternative for Germany, AfD, Joerg Meuthen, second from right, top candidate Joerg Urban, center, top candidate for the Saxony state elections and board member Beatrix von Storch, left, react after first election results announced in Dresden, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

states is that a few weeks ago the far-right was ahead, and today there was a clear signal against AfD," said Lars Klingbeil, the general secretary of the center-left Social Democrats — Merkel's junior partners in Berlin. "People don't want AfD to be the strongest party there, but nevertheless it is a task for all democratic parties to see how we push them back. These election results are

much too high."

Alice Weidel, a leader of AfD in the national parliament, declared it "a great success."

Projections for ARD and ZDF public television, based on exit polls and partial counting, suggested that the governing parties performed better than pre-election polling predicted. However, both lost ground compared with the last state elections in 2014 —

before the migrant influx that boosted AfD's support and helped it into Germany's national parliament in 2017.

They showed Merkel's center-right Christian Democratic Union winning up to 33.5% of the vote in Saxony, which they have governed since German reunification in 1990, down from 39% five years ago. AfD was predicted to win up to 27.5%, which would be its best

performance yet in a state election and compares with 9.7% five years ago.

In Brandenburg, the Social Democrats were seen winning around 27% of the vote, down from 31.9% five years ago. They have led that region since reunification. AfD was seen winning up to 24%, up from 12.2% in 2014. The environmentalist Greens, who have traditionally struggled in the east but have surged over recent months in national polls, were seen making fairly modest gains in both states. They may be needed to govern both states. Merkel's CDU and Social Democrats govern Ger-

many together in a fractious national coalition. In Saxony and Brandenburg, they face a potentially tricky search for new partners, as the coalitions both lead were on track to lose their majorities. The CDU currently runs Saxony with the Social Democrats as its junior partner. The Social Democrats lead Brandenburg in a coalition with the Left Party, which is further to their left.

Saxony has long been a hotbed of far-right groups. It is not only a stronghold of AfD, but also the state where the anti-migration group PEGIDA —Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West — rose to prominence with weekly protests in Dresden that brought tens of thousands of supporters into the streets at the height of the 2015 migration crisis.

Following the killing of a German man by a Syrian asylum-seeker a year ago, the Saxon city of Chemnitz saw days of anti-foreigner riots by thousands of neo-Nazis and members of AfD.□

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French prosecutor: Knife attack suspect in 'psychotic state'

By ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — An Afghan man was in a "psychotic state" and on drugs during a stabbing in France that killed one person and injured eight others, but investigators haven't found any terrorist ties, a regional prosecutor said Sunday.

A psychiatric evaluation of the man in custody for Saturday's attack revealed he was experiencing "paranoid delirium," prosecutor Nicolas Jacquet said.

The suspect reported he "heard voices" telling him to kill, according to Jacquet. A 19-year-old man died after being stabbed with a knife in the attack outside a subway station in the Lyon suburb of Villeurbanne.

Passers-by surrounded and apprehended the assailant before police arrived, according to the prosecutor. He thanked them.

"Their courageous, responsible intervention was decisive," Jacquet told reporters.

A witness broadcaster BFMTV identified as Sofiane described trying to help people who were stabbed and rounding up others to go after the attacker.

The man from Afghanistan in custody has been living in a French center for asylum-seekers, and held a temporary French residency card, Jacquet said. The suspect was first recorded in France in 2009, and subsequently traveled to Britain, Italy, Germany and Norway before returning to France in 2017.

After the stabbings, the suspect gave "incoherent" accounts and three different dates of birth to police, Jacquet said. The man was not publicly named.

The suspect was not on any radicalism watch list, Jacquet said.



Reporters work near a subway station after an assailant stabbed one person to death and injured nine others, Saturday Aug. 31, 2019 just outside a subway station in Villeurbanne, outside Lyon, central France.

Associated Press

Officers searched the suspect's residence as part of the investigation, and "nothing was found showing any kind of radicalization," he said.

The suspect had no police record or record of psychiatric problems, the prosecutor said. He was found with two knives but no other weapons.

Two of the eight people injured remained hospitalized. French police initially said nine people had injuries but the prosecutor said the total was eight. The reason for the discrepancy was unclear.

Villeurbanne Mayor Jean-Paul Bret said the man held is the only person suspected of wielding the knife.

The mayor also called anti-migrant politicians "shameless" for seizing on the stabbings to push their views.

French far right leader Marine Le Pen tweeted after the attack that "lax migration policy" threatens France's security.

The attack raised concerns because France remains on alert after a string of deadly Islamic extremist attacks. □

Ukraine, Poland want continued sanctions on Russia



Poland's President Andrzej Duda, left, welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy before talks on bilateral relations and Ukraine's ties with Europe under the new government, in front of the Presidential Place in Warsaw, Poland, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019.

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Saturday he and Poland's president have agreed that sanctions ought to continue against Russia until Ukraine regains the territory it lost in Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

Accompanied by some members of his new Cabinet, Zelenskiy is in Poland for political talks and also to attend ceremonies Sunday marking 80 years since the start of World War II.

Following talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda,

Zelenskiy said they have agreed on steps that should be taken to put an end to the war in eastern Ukraine and return the Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine.

Duda said he had assured Zelenskiy of his support as regards "Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity." The conflict in eastern Ukraine is pitching government forces against Russia-backed separatists.

Duda said that Crimea as well as regions in eastern Ukraine "must be brought back under Ukraine's full control." □

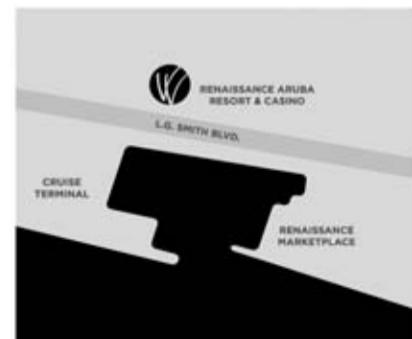


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Saudi-led airstrikes kill at least 100 in rebel-run prison

By AHMED AL-HAJ

SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen (AP) — The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen launched multiple airstrikes on Sunday against a detention center operated by the Houthi rebels in the southwestern province of Dhamar, killing at least 100 people and wounding dozens more, officials and the rebels' health ministry said.

Franz Rauchenstein, the head of the Red Cross delegation in Yemen, suggested that the death toll could be higher after visiting the site of the attack, saying relatively few detainees survived. A Red Cross statement said the detention center held around 170 detainees — forty were being treated for injuries, the rest were presumed dead.

"Witnessing this massive damage, seeing the bodies lying among the rubble, was a real shock. Anger and sadness were natural reactions," Rauchenstein said.

The attack was the deadliest so far this year by the coalition, according to the Yemen Data Project, a database tracking the war. The coalition has faced international criticism for airstrikes that have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties, killing thousands of Yemeni civilians.

Saudi Arabia intervened on behalf of the internationally recognized Yemeni government in March 2015, after the Iran-backed Houthis took the capital. The conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives, thrust millions to the brink of famine and spawned the world's worst humanitarian



Rescue workers recover bodies from under the rubble of a Houthi detention center destroyed by Saudi-led airstrikes, that killed at least 60 people and wounding several dozen according to officials and the rebels' health ministry, in Dhamar province, southwestern Yemen, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

crisis.

The attack comes as the Saudi-led coalition's partners — chiefly the United Arab Emirates and an array of Yemeni militias — are increasingly at odds over the war's aims. The past weeks have seen heavy fighting in Yemen's south between Saudi-backed and Emirati-backed forces.

Yemeni officials said Sunday's strikes targeted a college in the city of Dhamar, which the Houthi rebels were using as a detention center. The coalition denied it had struck a detention center, saying it had targeted a military site used by the rebels to restore drones and missiles.

"We were sleeping and around midnight, there were maybe three, or four, or six strikes. They were targeting the jail, I really don't know the strike numbers," wounded detainee Na-

zem Saleh said while on a stretcher in a local hospital. He said the Red Cross had visited the center two times before the airstrike.

A line of over a dozen white body bags were laid out in the rubble beside flattened buildings and crushed cars, while rescue workers dug through the debris.

"We have seen now under the ruble that there are still many, many dead bodies that it's very, very difficult to extract," said Rauchenstein.

The U.N. human rights office for Yemen said 52 detainees were among the dead, and at least 68 detainees were still missing.

The Red Cross, which inspects detention centers as part of its global mission, said it had visited detainees at the site in the past. Former detainees said the Houthis had previously used the site to store and repair

weapons.

Youssef al-Hadhri, a spokesman for the Houthi-run Health Ministry, said at least seven airstrikes hit three buildings in the complex overnight.

The rebels' Health Ministry said in a statement that more than 60 people were killed in Sunday's airstrikes and another 50 wounded. Later in the day, health officials said the death toll climbed to 65. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

The Saudi-led coalition said it had hit a military facility "in accordance with international humanitarian law," and that "all precautionary measures were taken to protect civilians."

Col. Turki al-Maliki, a spokesman for the coalition, was quoted by the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV

as denying the target was a prison. Local residents said family members arrested for being critical of the Houthis were imprisoned in the detention center. They said at least seven airstrikes hit the area.

Omat al-Salam al-Haj, a mother of a detainee, said the center housed anti-Houthi political detainees who were rounded up over suspicions of cooperating with the coalition.

Former detainee Mansour al-Zelai said the Houthis were restoring weapons in and close to the detention center.

Houthi rebels have been using scores of sites as detention centers, including schools, mosques, and houses, filling them with thousands of political detainees to use later in prisoner-swap deals.

The Associated Press documented that many of these sites were rife with torture and abuses including Dhamar's community college.

Former detainees recalled torture and abuses inside the detention center, which came under a series of airstrikes before.

Rights groups have also previously documented that Houthis place civilian detainees in detention centers as human shields by placing them next to army barracks, under constant threat of airstrikes.

In October 2016, an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition hit a prison complex in the Red Sea port of Hodeida, killing at least 58 people, mostly prisoners. At the time, the coalition said the prison complex was used as a command center for Houthis. □

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Protesters block roads near Hong Kong airport

By VINCENT YU

KATIE TAM

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Anti-government protesters blocked roads near Hong Kong's airport with burning barricades and damaged a train station Sunday after a night of violent clashes with police.

Train and some bus service to the airport on the outlying island of Chek Lap Kok were suspended. Some passengers walked to the airport, one of Asia's busiest, carrying their luggage. Hong Kong has been the scene of tense anti-government protests for nearly three months. The demonstrations began in response to a proposed extradition law and have expanded to include other grievances and demands for more democracy and the resignation of the semiautonomous Chinese territory's leader.

The protests are an embarrassment to China's ruling Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th anniversary in power. The protesters complain Beijing and the government of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam are eroding the autonomy and civil liberties promised when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

On Sunday, the MTR Corp. suspended train service to the airport after several hundred protesters gathered there following calls online to disrupt transpor-



Pro-democracy protesters leave after riot police arrive outside the airport in Hong Kong, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

tation. They blocked buses arriving at the airport but police in riot helmets kept them out of the terminal. The government said some protesters threw objects at police. It also said iron poles, bricks and rocks were thrown onto tracks of the airport train.

At least 26 flights from Hong Kong and 17 to the city had been canceled as of 7:55 p.m., the South China Morning Post newspaper reported, citing information from the airport.

After protesters began to stream away from the airport in the late afternoon, some attacked a train station in the adjacent Tung Chung area. They used metal bars to smash lights

and broke open a fire hose valve, sending water gushing across the floor. Protesters set up barricades on two adjacent streets and set fire to some of them. Firefighters arrived a few minutes later to douse the blaze.

Protesters left the area after busloads of riot police in green fatigues with black helmets and riot shields flooded into the train station.

Passengers arriving downtown on a ferry from Lantau Island, where Tung Chung is located, were being searched by police and asked for identity cards, the newspaper said.

The protests followed a night of violent clashes be-

tween protesters and police.

On Saturday, protesters threw gasoline bombs at government headquarters. Police stormed a subway car and hit passengers with clubs and pepper spray.

A total of 63 people were arrested at the Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei and Prince Edward subway stations, police announced. The youngest was a 13-year-old boy accused of possessing two gasoline bombs.

The protests erupted in early June in Hong Kong, whose 7.4 million people were promised a "high degree of autonomy" under an agreement between Beijing and London.

Opponents saw the pro-

posed extradition bill as an erosion of that "one country, two systems" framework. It would have allowed crime suspects to be sent to the mainland, where the Communist Party controls the court system.

Lam, the Hong Kong leader, suspended work on the law but protesters want it withdrawn completely. They also have called for Lam's resignation and democratic elections.

Also Sunday, demonstrators outside the British Consulate called on London to grant citizenship to people born before the former colony was returned to China. About 200 people waved British flags and chanted "Equal rights now!" and "Stand with Hong Kong!"

A saxophonist in dark glasses played "God Save the Queen," the British national anthem. Many wanted Britain to grant citizenship to people born in Hong Kong before 1997. Instead of citizenship, London gave Hong Kong people "British National Overseas" passports that can be used for travel but not to settle in the United Kingdom.

"I hope the British government can change its nationality law," said a protester, Gary Law.

On Saturday, protesters took to the streets after police refused permission for a march to mark the fifth anniversary of a decision by China against fully democratic elections in Hong Kong. □

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Mexico's president vows to tackle violence, weak economy

By AMY GUTHRIE

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador acknowledged a grim tally of violent crimes and a weak economy as he delivered the first state of the union address of his six-year term Sunday.

Homicides in Mexico are at a record high and the economy is struggling nine months into his administration. Yet López Obrador, who campaigned on promises to end corruption, continues to enjoy sky-high approval ratings of more than 70% after winning the presidency in a landslide July 2018 election victory that also handed his political party a near-majority in Congress.

Stamping out corruption and impunity remains a top priority, López Obrador said in his address to Cabinet members, generals, businessmen and journalists at the National Palace.

Tackling corruption is a tall task. Mexico scored 28 out



Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador waves goodbye after delivering his first year's state of the nation address at the National Palace in Mexico City, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

of 100 points in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, where a lower score indicates higher levels of corruption. That puts Mexico on par with Russia and behind countries such as Bolivia and Honduras in clean business dealings.

"Nothing has damaged Mexico more than the dishonesty of its rulers — and this is the main cause of the economic and social inequality, and of the insecurity and violence, that we suffer," the president said somberly.

López Obrador has dubbed

his tenure the "Fourth Transformation," saying it represents a change akin to Mexico's 1810 independence uprising, 1857 Liberal movement and 1910 revolution. He took office in December on promises to help the country regain its moral compass.

Mexican presidents are limited to a single term in office.

The transition has been bumpy, with three top Cabinet members having already resigned. Austerity measures have gutted key institutions, such as the public health system, and contributed to a growing hesitance among Mexicans to invest and spend.

The president touted 145 billion pesos, or roughly \$7.25 billion, in savings from spending cuts and other measures that have taken effect since he took office Dec. 1. His administration has confronted fuel theft from the state oil company Pemex, slashed public salaries, eliminated a major social program and decommissioned government offices abroad that promoted investment in Mexico.

As the economy flirts with recession, López Obrador said that well-being should be measured via the happiness of the people rather than by growth in gross domestic product. □

Indigenous leader in Brazil's Amazon tries to thwart loggers

By LEO CORREA

Associated Press

ALTAMIRA, Brazil (AP) — An indigenous leader in Brazil's Amazon says he will do what he can to stop loggers and prospectors encroaching on his people's land.

Kadjyre Kayapo, his son and other companions searched in recent days for signs of trespassing in the lush rainforest of the Kayapo indigenous group's land in Pará state.

The routine patrol came after a month in which fires swept many areas of the Amazon, causing an international outcry over the growing threat to a vast area that drains heat-trap-



Krimej indigenous Chief Kadjyre Kayapo, of the Kayapo indigenous community, looks out at a path created by loggers on the border between the Biological Reserve Serra do Cachimbo, front, and Menkragnotire indigenous lands, in Altamira, Para state, Brazil, Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019.

Associated Press

ping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

An Associated Press jour-

had been put up by illegal loggers. They traveled part of the way in a boat between river banks thick with vegetation. Kadjyre Kayapo is head of Krimej village, where villagers run a surveillance operation that tries to monitor incursions into indigenous territory.

"I founded this village to prevent the loggers getting into our territory," said the leader, who wore a traditional headdress and a necklace reading "Jesus Christ" in Kayapo language.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro contends that past allocations of land to indigenous people, many of whom live in the Amazon

rainforest, were excessive. About 14% of Brazil is indigenous territory, a huge area for those groups' relatively small numbers, the president said.

Bolsonaro has faced criticism for saying rainforest protections are blocking Brazil's economic development. He has said European countries expressing concern have done enough damage to the environment themselves and should focus on their own reforestation.

The Brazilian Amazon saw 30,901 fires in August, the highest for the month since 2010, according to the country's National Institute for Space Research. □

LOCAL



Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba celebrate Press Day

ORANJESTAD — Aruba dedicates the first day of September to their media with Press Day. This day the press celebrates their profession by sharing time with colleagues and release a little bit of the daily deadline stress. Fun was present at the Ostrich Farm where Bon Dia Aruba and Aruba Today enjoyed a great tour that provided interesting facts about the largest bird on earth. A nice breakfast under the giant African-style palapa was for sure a great Sunday morning experience.



Also this day we emphasize the importance of freedom of speech and independent press. As media we are responsible to maintain our neutral vision and independent position, a topic that often is being discussed. It is essential to defend the fundamental principles of press freedom and to assess the state of press freedom throughout the world. This day pays attention to the media attacks on their independence and also to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.



Continued on Page 14



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Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba celebrate Press Day

Continued from Page 13

Both newspapers, Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba are part of Caribbean Speed Printers N.V. which is responsible for the production, printing and distribution.

The company was incorporated on April 4th, 1990 by John A. Chemaly Sr. and specializes in newsprint publications with the latest in printing technology on its premises. Aruba Today, the only English and free newspaper on the island, has subscribed to the Associated Press (AP) and provides readers with the latest international news from the repertoire of AP writers and columnists. They also bring local news that is of interest to our visitors as well as



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locals. Bon Dia Aruba is a Papiamento newspaper and has a trusted image. About 30 employees make sure that both newspapers are ready to read six days

a week. The work is an ongoing 24-hour process of the department's administration, sales, editorial, layout, pre-press, press and distribution. □



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal Aruba visitors

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 consecutive years or more.

One honoree was **Brenden F. McCarthy** who has been visiting the island since he was one years old!

The other honorees were the lovely **Scott and Marsha Milich** who have been visiting the island since year 1986 consecutively!

It was truly an amazing celebration to witness.

These people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.



Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Re-

sort presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificates to the honorees, and handed

over some additional presents, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their fa-

vorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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ORANJESTAD — On the resignation of Michèle Russel-Capries as chairman and board member of the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund Caribbean (PBCCG) the fund granted her with a Fund on her name (FON) as farewell gift. Believing that culture and nature are of primary importance for the well-being and prosperity of our islanders, Michèle Russel-Capries decides with this FON to give an impulse to the cultural experience and experience that can be offered by the local resident to the (foreign) visitor.

What are the objectives of Culturismo?

With this initiative, the newest FON, called CULTURISMO, is established under the umbrella of the PBCCG. The Culturismo Fund focuses on projects from either independent artists, performers, musicians or local cultural organizations, museums or organizations that live or are located on the island where the project is being carried out. Historians, scientists and authors are also eligible for a subsidy from projects from the Culturismo Fund.

With this Fund, the PBCCG hopes primarily to give its field of work an impulse to create new experiences for tourists, in which islanders actively participate as agents of culture and nature.

With the possibilities to:

- offer the cultural sector

the opportunity to invest;

- strengthening the quality of life for (especially) the islanders, but also the visitor;
- Promoting mutual knowledge for tourists and locals;
- stimulate and facilitate cooperation between multiple (cultural) groups on and between the islands;
- contribute to the creation of mergers of multiple cultural expressions that mainly attempt to propagate our own heritage and stories;
- diversify the offer in the field of cultural tourism and increase the value of our islands as a destination;
- Increasing the economic value of culture

Application Procedure:

- When applying for a subsidy from the Culturismo Fund you must use a specific application form. You can find this via the website www.pbccaribbean.com
- Applications must be received before October 1
- An advisory committee assesses the applications and gives advice to the PBCCG Board
- The board of PBCCG chooses, based on the advice of the advisory committee, the plan (or plans) for which a subsidy is awarded
- The PBCCG intends to be able to take a board decision within 2 months of submitting the application with regard to the Culturismo subsidies.

For more information check out the website www.pbccaribbean.com □





Hotel

Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

Devil in the details

The strangest thing happened the other day, one I figured worth sharing since in hindsight it's a pretty funny story. It all started with a bit of departmental miscommunication on the status of a few rooms. We had provided maintenance with some rooms to do some preventative maintenance in and during our Friday morning meeting, housekeeping mentioned the room had yet to be worked in. Of course this caused a bit of a ruckus with Saturday being our check in day and my mind flying into all the work that would go into having to change assignments.

After some back and forth, I finally decided to just run up to the rooms in question and have a look at them for myself. Granted I have no technical skills, but sometimes you need to just see something for yourself. I got the resales agent to come up with me and have a look at the rooms, we started on the one closest to us that required a patch and paint. As soon as we walked into the room a curious series of events unfolded. Bear in mind I've been working in the same place for almost nine years and our resales agent spends every day showing rooms as part of her sales pitch. The both of us are very much familiar with the rooms. Imagine our surprise when we walk in and notice the dining room wall is painted blue. Tea light blue to be specific. The sales agent and I both look at each other perplexed for a moment, because the living room walls are supposed to be cream colored. How did maintenance make such a big mistake? I quickly take some pictures and we make our way to housekeeping, maybe they have an explanation for this. We get to the housekeeping coordinators office and show her the colors and to our horror, her reaction is the same as our own.



She had no recollection of any living rooms being blue. I call down to the General Manager's office to advise him the room is good to go, however for some reason the living room wall is blue and I ask him if he's aware of this change? He states the wall should be cream.

Now everyone is in a panic because what is happening?

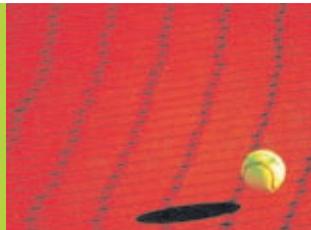
Just then two housekeeping supervisors walk in and we ask them about the living room color. Both seem unsure and think they have rooms with blue living rooms, but they aren't sure. Collectively we decide to check out other rooms, before calling in maintenance for answers. So I and the sales agent head to the stairs in order to go to the second room to be inspected. As we are in the stairwell, I receive a call from the maintenance chief to discuss the earlier miscommunication. Once we all have our ducks in a row I ask him about the living room color. Finally he confirms that in fact several suites had their living room painted tea light blue by his predecessor.

As if by an extra bit of confirmation, the next room we went into had the same color in the living room, but it was much more subtle since it was dry. It just goes to show that even if you've been working somewhere for a long time and think you know it like the back of your hand, sometimes you go blind to the details. I think after this we will all be a bit more alert the next time we go to a room. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



Will Power wins at Portland in big day for Team Penske

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

PORTRLAND, Oregon (AP)

— Josef Newgarden tightened his grip on the Indy-Car championship with a trouble-free run at Portland International Raceway and a victory by teammate Will Power.

Power won for the second time in three races, and the Sunday victory was critical because it prevented any of Newgarden's title contenders from taking the top spot on the podium.

Newgarden started with a 38-point lead in the standings, finished fifth and now takes his bid for a second title in three years to the Sept. 22 season finale to Laguna Seca in California. "I am happy for Will, I wanted Will to win the race," Newgarden said.

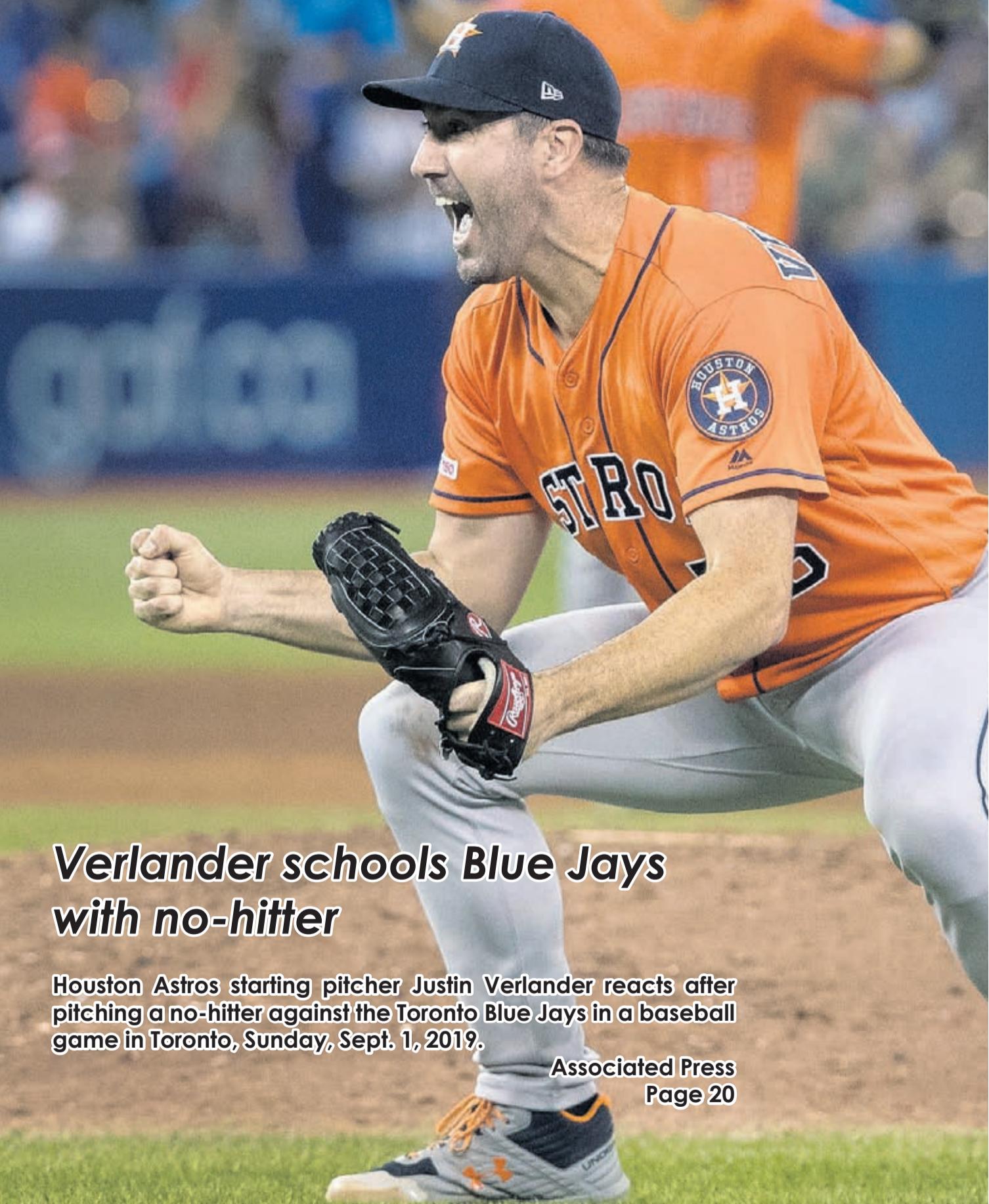
"If we weren't going to win it, then he's the guy to win and take the points away from somebody else."

Power understood the task for Team Penske and Chevrolet, and understood he had to prevent Alexander Rossi and five-time and reigning series champion Scott Dixon from winning at Portland and closing in on Newgarden's points lead.

Rossi finished third, but still trails Newgarden by 41 points, while Dixon was in control of the race early until his battery died and is now a longshot to win the title.

"Just so stoked get to victory lane, helps the team, keeps the other guys from getting points," Power said.

PERFECT PITCH



Verlander schools Blue Jays with no-hitter

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander reacts after pitching a no-hitter against the Toronto Blue Jays in a baseball game in Toronto, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

Associated Press
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Soderberg wins 5-man playoff for European Masters title

CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland (AP) — In a five-man playoff for the European Masters title on Sunday, Sebastian Soderberg sank his birdie putt on the first extra hole when Rory McIlroy and others could not.

History repeated itself for McIlroy at the Crans-sur-Sierre club in the Swiss Alps, where he lost a playoff as a 19-year-old in 2008.

"Too many mistakes," said McIlroy, who came to the Swiss Alps for his seventh event in eight weeks direct from securing the FedEx Cup last Sunday. "Playing that much, sometimes these mental errors creep in."

Soderberg seemed to waste his best chance of victory on the 17th green, three-putting from five feet to fall into a share of the lead at 14 under.

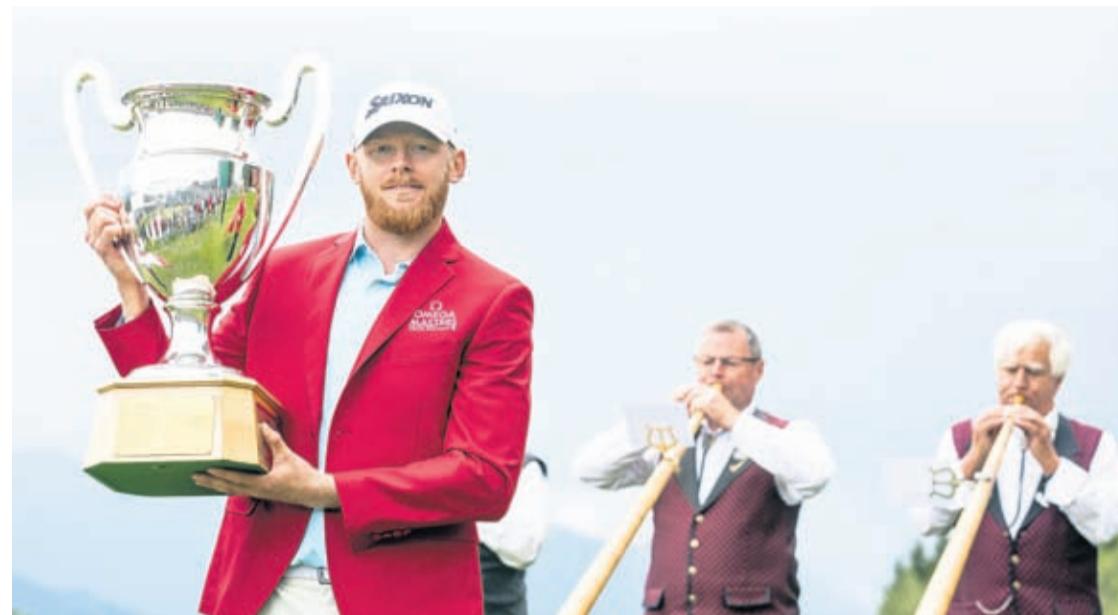
The 28-year-old Swede carded a 4-under 66 for a 266 total, alongside his playing partners McIlroy (67) and Lorenzo Gagli (67), and soon joined by Kalle Samooja (67) and third-round leader Andres Romero (70).

Playing the par-4 18th as the first extra hole, the former Coastal Carolina University student Soderberg was the only player to stay on the fairway. McIlroy pushed his tee shot left into the spectators.

Soderberg made his putt from about eight feet before McIlroy and Samooja missed from closer range. It was a first title for Soderberg, whose winner's check almost doubled his career winnings on the European Tour. It also secured his Tour card through 2021.

"It's going to change your life going forward," said Soderberg, who acknowledged shaking with the tension when he led on the back nine of the Severiano Ballesteros course. "I was way more calm in the playoff than I was in my last few holes."

McIlroy played more than 18 holes for the second straight Sunday. One week earlier, he won the weather-affected Tour Championship after playing most



Winner Sebastian Soderberg of Sweden poses with the trophy during an award ceremony after the final round of the European Masters golf tournament in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, Sunday, September 1, 2019.

Associated Press

of his third round on the Sunday morning.

"The sloppy finish yesterday

(Saturday) probably cost me," said second-ranked McIlroy, who dropped three shots late in his third round.

Soderberg soared up the

leaderboard with five straight birdies from the 10th. At the 17th, he stood over a five-footer for birdie seconds after playing partners McIlroy and Gagli sank theirs to move within one shot. Soderberg took three putts, then missed a birdie chance on the final hole.

"I thought I had it," Soderberg said, recalling his first putt for victory. "I literally couldn't hold the putter still so I was just happy I gave it a good try."

After pushing his tee shot wide right into the trees, McIlroy was looking at the plaque in honor of a storied Ballesteros shot from that spot in 1993. Instead, McIlroy chipped out on the fairway, hit his approach to within two feet, and calmly made par. □

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Verlander pitches 3rd career no-hitter, Astros beat Jays 2-0

By IAN HARRISON

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP)— Justin Verlander took the mound for the ninth inning, fully aware of the no-hitters he finished — and his near misses, too. Zeroed in, he wouldn't be denied this time.

Verlander pitched his third career no-hitter, punctuating a dominant season by striking out 14 to lead the Houston Astros past the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0 on Sunday.

Verlander became just the sixth pitcher to throw at least three no-hitters in the majors, an elite club that includes the likes of Nolan Ryan, Sandy Koufax and Cy Young.

"It means a lot," Verlander said. "I'd be lying if I said I didn't know that. I've come so close. Since I've had two, I think I've blown two in the ninth and another couple in the eighth."

"I was definitely aware of the history aspect of it. Definitely a big hurdle to get over and a very special moment for me," he said.

Verlander (17-5) is the first pitcher to throw two no-hitters as a visitor in the same park — he also threw one at Rogers Centre in 2011 with Detroit. His other no-no was in 2007 for the Tigers against Milwaukee.

"I guess I have to like this mound a lot now," Verlander joked.

Verlander allowed only one runner, with Cavan Biggio drawing a one-out walk in the first inning. The Blue Jays, with a lineup full of young, aggressive batters, never came close to a hit.

The 36-year-old Verlander joined Ryan (seven), Koufax (four) and Young, Bob Feller and 1880s-era Larry Corcoran (three each) in rarefied air on the no-hitter list.

"Some of the guys I've idolized," Verlander said.

And it came after a series of close calls.

Verlander lost a no-hit try in the eighth inning late in 2011, had bids broken in the ninth in 2012 and 2015 and had another attempt spoiled last May in the seventh by Jose Abreu of the



Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws in the ninth inning against the Toronto Blue Jays in a baseball game in Toronto, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

White Sox. Verlander's wife, model Kate Upton, is currently attending the Venice Film Festival, where she tweeted out a message of congratulations.

"She was the first one I called," Verlander said. "She was actually up very late watching the whole thing, so that's awesome." Verlander threw a season-high 120 pitches, mixing a fastball that reached the upper 90s mph with a sharp curve.

The right-hander retired the last 26 hitters in a row. But he still needed help because the game was scoreless going into the last inning — according to baseball rules, Verlander had to pitch a complete game to get credit for a no-hitter.

That's when Canadian-born rookie Abraham Toro stepped up for the AL

West leaders. The Astros newcomer hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Ken Giles (2-3) that cleared the way for Verlander to complete the no-hitter.

"The whole dugout was going crazy because everybody knew what was one the line," Toro said.

Toro made a routine play on Bo Bichette's grounder to third base for the last out. Verlander joked the 22-year-old Toro, playing just his eighth game in the majors, was in for quite a nice reward.

"I could not be happier for that kid," said Verlander, who sought out Toro for an on-field hug after the game. "Just an incredible moment for him, from Canada, able to do that and then get the last out as well. Such a special moment and I'm happy I'm able to celebrate with him."

Said Bichette: "I honestly thought I was going to get him, but then he made a really good pitch."

"He is who is for a reason," Bichette said.

Only one Toronto player hit a ball harder than 100 miles per hour off the bat.

Billy McKinney sent a grounder that first baseman Aledmys Diaz, playing an unfamiliar position in place of the injured Yuli Gurriel, stopped in the fifth. Diaz fed Verlander to end the inning.

"I think every no-hitter needs something to go your way," Verlander said.

"That was a pretty poor pitch that was hit pretty hard, fortunately on the ground, and AD over there is a great athlete and was able to knock it down and make a great play."

Just two other pitchers have no-hit the same team more than once. Cleve-

land's Addie Joss did it to the White Sox in 1908 and 1910, while San Francisco's Tim Lincecum held San Diego hitless in 2013 and 2014.

This was the fourth no-hitter in the majors this year. The last one was by the Astros, a combined effort from Aaron Sanchez, Will Harris, Joe Biagini and Chris Devenski against Seattle on Aug. 3. Sanchez and Biagini did it in their first game since being acquired in a trade with Toronto.

Oakland's Mike Fiers and a tandem effort by Taylor Cole and Felix Pena of the Angels accounted for this year's other gems.

Verlander is tied for the big league lead in wins. The eight-time All-Star and former AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner tops the majors in strikeouts (257) and innings (193) and leads the AL with a 2.56 ERA.

With the crowd of 24,104 getting to its feet to begin the ninth, Verlander retired Brandon Drury on an easy grounder and struck out Reese McGuire.

After that second out, catcher Robinson Chirinos went to the mound for a quick visit with Verlander. The count went full on Bichette, who fouled off a pitch before hitting a bouncer to Toro.

Verlander took a couple hops toward first as he watched Toro field the ball, saw the throw on target and then began the celebration in the middle of the diamond.

Not bad for an ace who was ejected in his previous start. Verlander was tossed last Tuesday at home shortly after a close pitch didn't go his way against Tampa Bay. It was Verlander's ninth career shutout and first this season. This was the 13th no-hitter for the Astros, including one by Ryan.

The Blue Jays were no-hit for the sixth time. Before Sunday, the last to do it was Seattle's James Paxton, who became the first Canadian pitcher to throw a big league no-hitter north of the border when he beat the Blue Jays on May 8, 2018. □



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New York Jets' Taylor Bertolet (1) kicks a field goal during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

Jets claim K Vedvik from Vikings, cut Bertolet, 3 others

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Jets addressed their kicking woes by adding a kicker who had his own struggles this summer. Kaare Vedvik was claimed off waivers from the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, replacing Taylor Bertolet, who was waived.

The Jets also claimed wide receiver Braxton Berrios from New England, defensive end John Franklin-Myers from the Los Angeles Rams and defensive back Bennett Jackson from Baltimore. To make room on its 53-man roster, New York waived wide receiver/punt returner Greg Dortch and safety Doug Middleton and released linebacker Albert McClellan. The 25-year-old Vedvik, a native of Norway, was acquired by Minnesota last month from Baltimore and missed three of four field goals while punting five times for an average of 45.2 yards for the Vikings. He was released by Minnesota on Saturday. Vedvik spent last season on the Ravens' injured list after being signed as an

undrafted free agent out of Marshall. The Jets have had interest in him since last year and are intrigued by his dual-threat ability as a placekicker and punter. New York thought it had its kicking situation in place entering training camp, but Chandler Catanzaro abruptly retired after struggling in the first preseason game. The Jets brought in Bertolet, who spent last summer with them, but he had an up-and-down summer that included him missing two extra points in his first game. With a chance to solidify his spot in the preseason finale, Bertolet made two field goals to account for all the scoring in a 6-0 victory over Philadelphia — but missed three other tries. Berrios spent last season with the Patriots and could replace Dortch as the Jets' primary punt returner. Franklin-Myers adds depth at New York's edge rusher spot. He had a strip-sack of Tom Brady in the Super Bowl in February. Jackson is a versatile defensive back who can play both safety and cornerback. □



Miami Dolphins running back Patrick Laird (42) dives over the pile in the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019.

Associated Press

Flores says it again: Dolphins aren't tanking in 2019

By STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — First-year coach Brian Flores has been saying it since March and said it again Sunday: The Miami Dolphins are not tanking in 2019.

The claim sounded less convincing after Miami parted with three veterans in deals that netted mostly draft picks.

Even before the Dolphins swung the two weekend trades, they were widely expected to be among the NFL's worst teams. The departures of left tackle Laremy Tunsil, receiver Kenny Stills and linebacker Kiko Alonso, who made a combined 137 starts in 2016-18 for the Dolphins, increase the likelihood they'll bring up the rear this year.

The deals also make it more probable the Dolphins will go first in the 2020 draft, which fits neatly with the need for a franchise quarterback as part of the rebuilding project ordered in January by owner Stephen

Ross.

So are they tanking?

"No, we're not," Flores said. "We're going to try to win every game. It's disheartening to hear people even say that. For a guy who respects the game, as much as the game has done for me, when people say that — they shouldn't say it."

To explain the roster purge, the Dolphins made Flores available rather than general manager Chris Grier. Ross has said little publicly in recent months about his team, but Flores said the owner is on board with the direction.

"He has been very supportive," Flores said. "This entire organization is on the same page."

That includes the players, the coach said, even if they're dismayed that three longtime teammates have been traded.

"I understand there are relationships that are built," Flores said. "But the guys in the locker room, I think they're going to band to-

gether and play together." Miami completed the trade Sunday that sent Tunsil, Stills, a 2020 fourth-round pick and a 2021 sixth-round pick to the Texans for 2020 and 2021 first-round picks, a 2021 second-round pick, tackle Julián Davenport and cornerback Johnson Bademosi.

"This was something we couldn't turn down," Flores said. He said the departure of Stills was about football and not politics. Stills recently criticized Ross' support of President Donald Trump, and he has been kneeling during the national anthem for the past four seasons to protest racial inequality and police brutality. Alonso was traded to the Saints for linebacker Vince Biegel, who has yet to start an NFL game.

The deals leave the Dolphins with a passel of draft picks in the next two years, and a salary cap situation that will be the envy of the NFL. But that won't help in 2019. □

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Serena Williams turns right ankle, holds on for U.S. Open win

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP

Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena Williams was in pain — “acceptable” pain, her coach called it — after rolling her right ankle during the second set of a U.S. Open victory.

That was the bad news.

The good news for Williams as she pursues a seventh championship at Flushing Meadows and 24th Grand Slam singles title overall is that, while she reached the quarterfinals by beating No. 22 seed Petra Martic 6-3, 6-4 despite the ankle issue, No. 2 Ash Barty and No. 3 Karolina Pliskova both exited her side of the bracket Sunday.

Not that Williams seemed to care all that much about being one of only three of the top 12 seeded women who will still be around Monday.

“I can’t afford to look at it that way. Every single match I have played, people come and they play their best. The women that I play are not generally playing at this level against other players in the locker room, so for me, I have to be the greatest, whether it’s against the second seed, the No. 1 seed, or the No. 80th player in the world,” said Williams, who faces No. 18 Wang Qiang next. “I have to show up or else I’m going to go home.” Williams, who turns 38 this month, appeared to be



Serena Williams, of the United States, falls while chasing a return to Petra Martic, of Croatia, during round four of the US Open tennis championships Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

cruising along to a straightforward victory when she took an awkward step while up at the net for a volley. She tumbled to the ground and sat there, cross-legged, right in the middle of Arthur Ashe Stadium for a few moments. Williams has dealt with various health issues all season, including one that ended her stay at the Australian Open.

Might that sort of thing be happening again? Williams immediately asked for a trainer, who added tape to her lower right leg and foot during a medical timeout at the ensuing change-over.

Still, Martic thought Williams’ play might actually have improved the rest of the way.

“She started going for even more, I think. She felt like maybe she couldn’t move that well anymore,” Martic said. “Her shots were really precise. Serve was unbelievable. And when she hits those backhands and those first serves that well, it’s not easy to play against her.”

Williams ended things by raising both arms after smacking an ace at 118 mph, her fastest of the afternoon, punctuating an overpowering performance that included 38 winners to Martic’s 11.

“I didn’t know what to expect from her ball. I knew she (hits it) hard,” Martic said, “but until you feel it on your own racket, you just don’t know what to expect.”

The scene Sunday brought back memories of Williams’ Australian Open quarter-final in January against Pliskova. Williams was way ahead — holding a match point at 5-1, 40-30 in the third set — when she turned her left ankle awkwardly. From there, Williams was no longer, well, Williams, dropping every point she served the rest of the way.

She failed to convert four match points in all that day, ceded six games in a row and lost 7-5 in the third. That time, Williams didn’t call for a trainer, which surprised many. Didn’t make that mistake this time. And a couple of hours later, she was walking without any apparent hitch in her step. She figured she’d know more about the ankle

based on how it responds Monday; she plays Wang on Tuesday.

Williams has not managed to complete a non-Slam tournament in 2019, withdrawing from each with one ailment or another, including a viral illness, a hurt left knee and, most recently, back spasms. She hasn’t won a title since returning to the tour after having a baby; her daughter, Olympia, was born exactly two years ago Sunday.

“Best day of my life,” Williams called it.

Wang, who never had played in the fourth round at a major until Sunday, advanced by surprising French Open champion Barty 6-2, 6-4.

Pliskova, the 2016 U.S. Open runner-up, went home with a 6-7 (1), 6-3, 7-5 loss over nearly 2½ hours against 16th-seeded Johanna Konta of Britain.

This is the only Grand Slam tournament where Konta has yet to reach the semifinals; she’ll now meet No. 5 Elina Svitolina of Ukraine or No. 10 Madison Keys of the U.S., who were scheduled to play Sunday night.

Earlier Sunday, Roger Federer kept up his recent surge, dominating No. 15 seed David Goffin 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 in just 79 minutes. That’s one fewer minute than it took him to put together a 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 win against Dan Evans in the previous round. □

Will Power

Continued from Page 18

Less than thrilled was Rossi, who believed Portland was the place to pounce after Newgarden had a poor qualifying effort. It put Newgarden in 13th at the start and in the thick of the chaos that began with a multi-car crash in the opening turn. Newgarden, realizing he must only stay out of trouble in two races to win the title, remained calm and avoided the carnage.

“I was in the wrong place, I can tell you that,” he

said. “I saw someone come barreling at me, so I just tried to stop and go around. When you start that far back, you run the risk of being part of something like that.”

Even after dropping to the back of the field, he still managed to drive his way toward the front and finish just two spots behind Rossi. While it’s still a matchup of a pair of American drivers racing for the title at Laguna Seca, Rossi knows he must win the finale and hope Newgarden has a disastrous race to win the



This Aug. 17, 2019, file photo shows Josef Newgarden laughing during a news conference for Sunday’s IndyCar Series auto race at Pocono Raceway, in Long Pond, Pa.

Associated Press

championship. Rossi was runner-up to Dixon in last year’s title race. All the contenders might have had to contend with

Dixon, who had command of the race when his car powered down during a routine stop. His crew had to push him to his stall and

replace the battery, and Dixon went from leader to three laps off the pace in a moment. His title hopes — he was fourth among the four drivers mathematically eligible to win the championship — dashed.

Newgarden moved into the lead after Dixon’s issue and withstood a restart with four laps remaining for the victory.

Felix Rosenqvist was second, followed by Rossi, pole-sitter Colton Herta, Newgarden, Spencer Pigot and Indianapolis 500 winner Simon Pagenaud, the final driver in the championship picture. □



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No surprise: USA tops Czechs 88-67 to open World Cup

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — The first big celebratory reaction from the U.S. bench in this World Cup came just a couple of minutes after tipoff, when Myles Turner blocked a shot at the rim. And with that, the tone was set.

There is an emphasis on defense with this U.S. team, and it was evident from the outset of its Group E opener on Sunday. Donovan Mitchell scored 16 points to lead a balanced scoring night, and the Americans steadily pulled away to beat the Czech Republic 88-67 to begin their quest for a third consecutive World Cup title.

"That's got to be our calling card," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "We're going to try to execute better and better as time goes on, but defensively we've got to put our money there. It's what we have to be about to have an opportunity."

Harrison Barnes added

14 points, Kemba Walker scored 13 and Jayson Tatum finished with 10 for the Americans. Turner had seven rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

"As long as we win, that's all that matters," Tatum said.

Tomas Satoransky, the former Washington forward who was traded to Chicago over the summer, led the Czechs with 17 points. While the Americans' 78-game winning streak in international games with NBA players ended last month with a loss at Australia, their long winning streak in major tournaments continued. It's now at 54 games, starting with the bronze-medal game of the 2006 world championships and continuing with gold-medal runs at the 2007 FIBA Americas, 2008 Olympics, 2010 world championships, 2012 Olympics, 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics.

"We did a lot of good things," Mitchell said. "We guarded it well. We've got



United States' Donovan Mitchell tries to score against Czech Republic during a Group E match for the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019. U.S. defeats Czech Republic 88-67.

Associated Press

a lot of things we can definitely work on, and I think this is a good start to the tournament."

The Czechs scored the first four points of the fourth quarter to get within 66-52, but the Americans weren't threatened. Walker made a 3-pointer to stop the mini-run, found Mitchell in the corner for another 3-pointer that made it 72-52 about a minute later and the outcome was academic from

there.

The Czechs had their highlight run early for a quick 11-7 lead, and the couple thousand of their fans in Shanghai — most of them wearing either white or blue team jerseys, with a few Wizards jerseys for Satoransky mixed in there — were roaring.

It didn't last long.

After a 9-0 run by the Czechs, order was quickly restored. The Americans

scored the next 10 points, kick-starting what became a 29-9 run in all, and led by as many as 16 before going into the half with a 43-29 edge.

And it was defense that carried the Americans. Over a 10-minute stretch of the half, the Czechs went 4 for 20 with seven turnovers.

"The chemistry is building," Barnes said. "Looking forward to it continuing to build." □

Pogacar wins hail-hit Pyrenees stage, Quintana leads Vuelta

CORTALS D'ENCAMP, Andorra (AP) — Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia won a stormy mountainous ninth stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Sunday, and Nairo Quintana took over the race lead. "When I saw the weather yesterday, I was happy it was going to rain," the 20-year-old Pogacar said. "On the ground section I went full gas. Today was a tricky stage, a lot of technical areas ... and also a hail storm. It was an incredible ride." Pogacar, who

rides for UAE Team Emirates, finished the short but extremely challenging 94.4-kilometer (58.6-mile) stage in 2 hours, 58 minutes. Quintana crossed the line next as the rider for Movistar took the red leader's jersey from Nicolas Edet, who was dropped early in the stage.

The highly anticipated stage in the Pyrenees shattered the peloton with five summit climbs and a 4-kilometer (2 1/2-mile) gravel track near the end, which the riders reached amid

heavy rain and hail. The strongest of the favorites for the Grand Tour all finished within a minute of each other, leaving them in a tight bunch ahead of the first rest day. Primoz Roglic overcame signs of weakness and finished in third, as the Slovenian moved to second overall at six seconds behind Quintana. Fellow contender Miguel Ángel López looked like he was going to deal a blow to his rivals after he dropped them with a powerful attack.

But he fell on the gravel stretch when the weather was at its worst. The Colombian finished the stage ninth and is third overall at 17 seconds behind fellow countryman Quintana. López said the stage should have been stopped because of the weather. A mountain stage was halted in the Tour de France in July when rain made the course impossible to ride. "I have my arms scraped up," López said. "It was very dangerous. At least there wasn't a descent."

World champion Alejandro Valverde, a teammate of Quintana, is fourth at 20 seconds back. The racing resumes Tuesday with an individual time trial across the border in France. Roglic is considered the best suited of the top riders to make big gains on the 36 kilometers (22.3 miles) from Jurancón to Pau. "The important thing was to try to take some time on Roglic, who should do well on the time trial," said former Vuelta winner Quintana. □

U.S. to use fake social media to check people entering country

By TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officers can now create fictitious social media accounts to monitor social media information on foreigners seeking visas, green cards and citizenship.

An updated Homeland Security Department review of potential privacy issues dated July 2019 that was posted online on Friday essentially reversed a prior ban on officers creating fake profiles.

A USCIS statement explaining the change says fake accounts and identities will make it easier for investigators to search for potential evidence of fraud or security concerns as they decide whether to allow someone entry into the U.S. The change in policy was preceded by other steps taken by the State Department, which began requiring applicants for U.S. visas to submit their social media usernames this past June, a vast expansion of the Trump administration's enhanced screening of potential immigrants and visitors.

It's unclear exactly how the creation of fake social media accounts would work given policies of platforms like Facebook and Twitter, which both specifically state that impersonation — pretending to be someone other than yourself — vio-



In this Aug. 16, 2019, file photo a citizen candidate holds an American flag and the words to The Star-Spangled Banner before the start of a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Miami field office in Miami.

lates their terms of use.

Twitter and Facebook recently shut down numerous accounts believed to be operated by the Chinese government using their platforms under false identities for information operations.

"It is against our policies to use fake personae and to use Twitter data for persistent surveillance of individuals. We look forward to understanding USCIS's proposed practices to determine whether they are

consistent with our terms of service," according to a Twitter statement. Facebook did not immediately provide comment.

Such a review of social media would be conducted by officers in the agency's Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate on cases flagged as requiring more investigation. The privacy assessment notes that officers can only review publicly available social media available to all users on the platform

— they cannot "friend" or "follow" an individual — and must undergo annual training.

The officers are also not allowed to interact with users on the social media sites and can only passively review information, according to the DHS document. While lots of social media activity can be viewed without an account, many platforms limit access without one.

Dave Maass, senior investigative researcher for the

Associated Press

civil liberties advocacy group Electronic Frontier Foundation, said such use of fake accounts "undermines our trust in social media companies and our ability to communicate and organize and stay in touch with people."

He added: "It can't be this double standard where police can do it, but members of the general public can't."

Mike German, a retired FBI agent and a fellow in the Brennan Center for Justice's Liberty and National Security program said it's important for strong guidelines to be in place and for lawmakers to ask lots of questions to ensure there are no abuses.

"It's easy to conjure up a use where the use is appropriate and entirely necessary, but also where it could be abused," German said. "It should only be used in cases where absolutely necessary."

In January 2017, former Homeland Security Department Secretary Jeh Johnson issued a privacy impact update giving authority to USCIS to "conduct law enforcement activities including but not limited to accessing internet and publicly available social media content using a fictitious account or identity." □

Cracked iPhone screen? You'll have more places to fix it

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is loosening its grip on how its products are repaired to give customers more options for fixing cracked screens and other defects on their older iPhones.

Under the new policy announced Thursday, Apple will begin selling its tools and parts to more independent phone-repair shops in the U.S. Apple will expand that to other countries later. Repairs at these shops, though, will be limited to iPhones already out of warranty. iPhones still under warranty must still be taken to an Apple store or one of

more than 5,000 service providers that the company already has authorized worldwide. That includes all Best Buy stores in the U.S. Those who have other devices, such as the Apple Watch and Mac computer, or an iPhone requiring more complicated repairs will also have to go there.

Although many unofficial repair shops have been offering basic fixes such as screen replacements, they aren't necessarily using Apple parts or qualified technicians. Now, thousands more shops will be able to buy parts directly from Apple, as long as they have a company-certified technician to make those repairs.



This Aug. 26, 2015 photo shows an Apple iPhone with a cracked screen after a drop test from the DropBot, a robot used to measure the sustainability of a phone to dropping, at the offices of SquareTrade in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Consumer groups and some state lawmakers have been pressuring Apple to give people more viable choices to seek repairs, as smartphones

have become as conspicuous in daily life as cars — a product that typically can be taken to an independent mechanic instead of a dealership. □



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Millennial Money: Drink up savings at Starbucks

By COURTNEY JESPERSEN

NerdWallet

Associated Press

One Starbucks grande Cold Brew with Salted Cream Cold Foam, please. Even if your order sounds fancy, enjoying your coffee shouldn't have to put you over budget.

Whatever your drink of choice, following these tips could help keep you from overspending at your favorite coffee spot — without giving up your habit.

WRITE A MONEY RECIPE

First and foremost, recognize your Starbucks purchases as a part of your actual budget.

"I prefer that people be realistic with themselves and say, 'Listen, this is a habit that I'm not going to give up. It makes my day. It makes me happy,'" says Marianela Collado, CEO and senior financial adviser at Tobias Financial Advisors in Florida.

"Then it should totally be a line item. If you take \$5 a day for 365 days, that's almost \$2,000."

Those who utilize a budgeting system like Mint or Quicken should create a "coffee fix" category in their budget, Collado says. This would fall under the "wants" section of your budget, much like an entertainment or beauty category. And be sure to set a monthly spending limit.

KEEP YOUR DARK ROAST OUT OF THE RED

Then, make some trade-offs. For example, Collado says she's noticed that some members of her team regularly splurge on their afternoon lattes, but bring their lunches to work instead of going out to eat. They value getting coffee out more than they value eating out.

If you're not sure if you can hold yourself accountable on your own, don't discount the ability of a gift card to keep your spending on track.

Using a gift card as your payment method is actually a forced budgeting technique, according to Tracie Fobes, founder of Penny Pinchin' Mom.

She recommends loading

a Starbucks gift card onto the Starbucks app with your coffee money allotment for the month. Then don't reload the card again for the next 30 days.

"You put \$40 on that card, and when that \$40 is done, guess what? Your Starbucks run ends for the month."

SWAP STARS FOR SAVINGS

You can maximize your monthly coffee allotment by joining Starbucks Rewards and downloading the coffee joint's app.

The Starbucks loyalty program offers customers the ability to earn stars — two stars for every \$1 spent — that can later be redeemed for free drinks and other rewards. There are also other benefits, such as a free treat on your birthday, according to a Starbucks spokesperson.

If you're going to be making purchases at Starbucks anyway, it makes sense to earn rewards for your loyalty — it'll stretch your coffee dollars a little bit further.

BREW UP A BARGAIN

Loyalty programs are a popular savings technique (Starbucks told us its rewards program has more than 16.8 million active members). But beyond simply joining, there are less conventional ways to get the most out of your cup of joe, too.

One option? Time your coffee run strategically. The coffee chain sometimes hosts discount promotions, such as happy hours. These are deals offered directly through the Starbucks app and could include offers such as 50% off drinks or buy one, get one free. These are available to all Starbucks customers and typically start at 3 p.m.

At any time of day, try asking the barista for less ice, recommends Kara Stevens, founder of The Frugal Feminista. The beverage may be slightly less cold, but the container will be filled with more drink for your money.

PASS ON THE PASTRIES

Sure, you can keep the iced latte, but pass on the pricey pastries, scones, cakes and other snacks, Fobes recommends.

But if you really, really like

the flavor of that iced lemon loaf cake, go to Pinterest and check for a similar recipe you can make at home.

"Somebody out there has a copycat where you can make it at home and get the Starbucks experience without paying the Starbucks price," Fobes says.

Stevens puts her Starbucks food advice this way: Don't linger too long. The more time you spend there, the more likely you are to be tempted by the food items. With a little extra work, you can drink up your favorite coffee with a helping of whipped cream — and without dragging down your budget. □



In this Aug. 8, 2019 photo customers arrive at a Starbucks coffee shop in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

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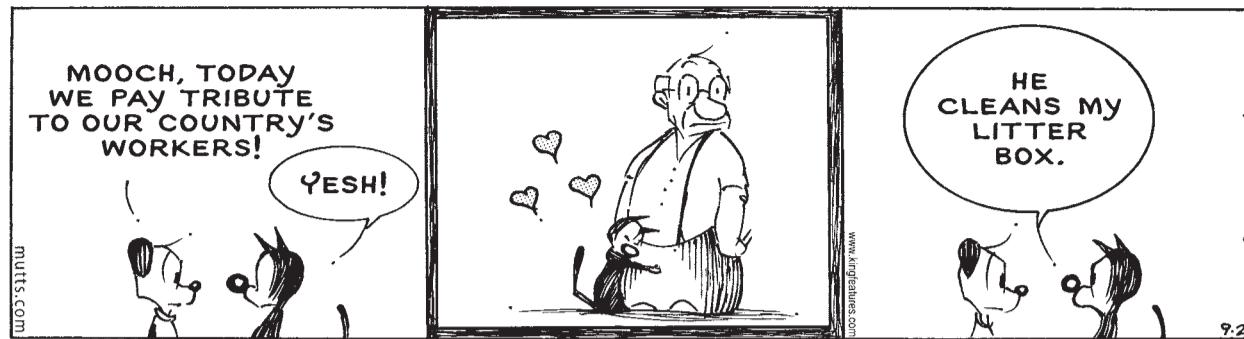
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	2		9	5							
8		6	5	1							
9		2	8	3	4	1			5	6	
7	6									3	
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Difficulty Level ★

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9/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	9	7	8	3	1	2	4	5			
8	2	5	4	6	7	1	3	9			
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5	4	2	3	1	9	7	8	6			
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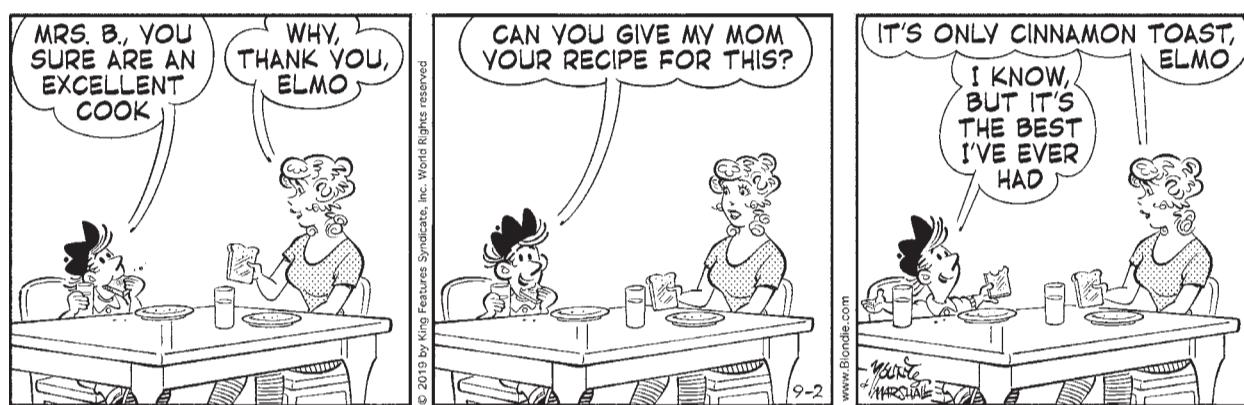
Saturday's puzzle answer

6	9	7	8	3	1	2	4	5			
8	2	5	4	6	7	1	3	9			
4	3	1	2	9	5	8	6	7			
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1	7	9	6	2	8	4	5	3			
2	1	4	7	5	6	3	9	8			
9	5	3	1	8	2	6	7	4			
7	8	6	9	4	3	5	1	2			

6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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						33	34			35		36

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	G	A	I	S	L	E	S	W	S	T
E	X	E	S						P	O	L
D	A	T	E	S					R	O	S
M	A	R	M	A	L	A	D	E	U	F	O
V	A	I	L	M	A	L	E		M	A	C
A	S	W	I	R	L	C	A	B	C	A	R
S	T	O	C	K	P	A	L	I	O	L	E
H	E	R	E	T	R	E	S	T	L	I	P
E	A	R	B	O	R	E	S	P	I	K	E
S	K	Y	L	A	R	K	S	P	C	R	E
O	A	T									
W	H	O	A								
W	H	O	A								

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9/19

- 4 Francisco
5 "I Am..."; Neil Diamond hit
6 Spicy
7 ___ house is a very, very, very fine house...
8 TV shows
9 Devious plan
10 Abel's brother
11 "Sesame"; Ali Baba's cry
12 Cruz & Danson
14 Rip Van Winkle, for one
19 Dish
22 Malia, to Sasha
25 JFK's successor
55 Gorgeous
58 "Bye, Pierre!"
60 Make money
61 Advice to Nanette
62 Famous
63 ___ row; disreputable area
64 Expand
65 Key in
- DOWN
1 Marshes
2 Reverberate
3 Spitting image
- 38 Puncturing
39 Injure
41 Jersey
42 Plaid cloth
44 Approximately
45 Misery
47 Shining
48 Fortas & Vigoda game
49 Parrot part
- 50 Wraparound dress
53 Horn's sound
54 "Hey ___"; Beatles song
56 Call ___; summon
57 Family card game
59 Braille unit

Cutting it close: Florida's fate may be a matter of miles

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

For Florida, just a handful of miles may make a huge difference in Hurricane Dorian's slow dance with the coast.

The National Hurricane Center forecasts Dorian to be 40 to 50 miles off the Florida coast on Tuesday and Wednesday, with hurricane-force wind speeds extending about 35 miles to the west.

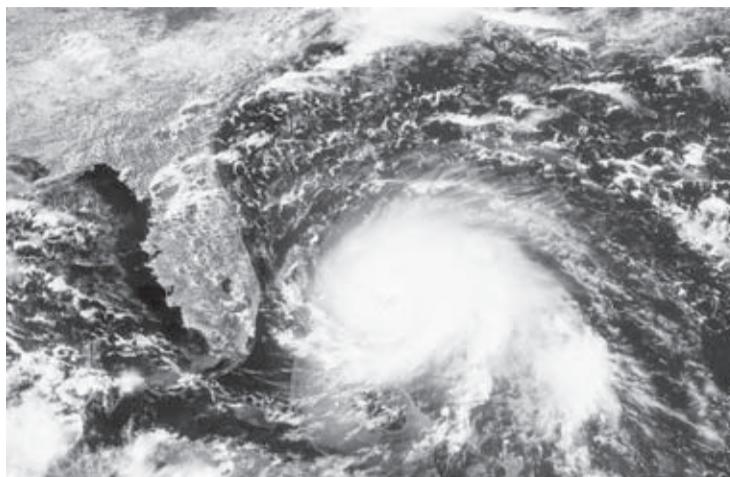
But that's just one point that forecasters have to choose to place the monstrous storm that packed 185 mph winds on Sunday. It could be within 100 miles of that point, which is why the hurricane center uses — and emphasizes — a shaded cone of uncertainty. And much of the Florida coast is inside that cone.

"This thing is perilously close to the state. I think we should all hope and pray for the best, but we have to prepare that this could have major impacts on the state of Florida," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. "If you look at the National Hurricane Center's current track, I think it ends up within 30 miles of the coast of Florida. Well guess what? You do just a touch of a bump one way or another, and you have a dramatic difference all of a sudden." Center Director Ken Graham is telling residents don't bet on safety just because his office specific forecast track has the storm just a bit offshore.

"The cone is so important," Graham said.

And making matters more touch-and-go is that with every new forecast, "we keep nudging (Dorian's track) a little bit to the left," which is closer to the Florida coast, he said.

Dorian is a powerful but small hurricane with hurricane-force winds Sunday only extending 29 miles to the west, but they are expecting to grow a bit. That makes forecasting the storm's path along the coast — either just off the coast, skirting it or moving inland with a direct hit —



This GOES-16 satellite image taken Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, at 17:00 UTC and provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shows Hurricane Dorian, right, churning over the Atlantic Ocean.

delicate and difficult. Just a few miles west or east makes the difference between devastation and bad but not horrible damage, meteorologists said. "Where it doesn't directly hit, it's not going to be a huge problem," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

With a big, sloppy hurricane — say 50% larger in size — all of Florida would be under a serious threat, but that's not the case, said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy.

This is what makes this a nightmare for forecasters, McNoldy said.

It's a combination of the small size, close-in track, like Matthew in 2016, and weak steering currents.

That means just a smidge of a movement days ahead of time, while Dorian is in the Bahamas, can reverberate and mean a direct hit or not, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue.

That can happen just because of the timing of when Dorian's eyewall collapses and is replaced, which happens normally in storms.

Adding to that problem is Dorian's slow, almost snail-like pace. What initially looked like a Labor Day storm for the U.S. is now approaching Tuesday and Wednesday.

"People are getting impatient with this," McNoldy said. Because the threat seems to keep sticking around, it could be a problem getting the right message across, he said. □

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As with adults, no easy way to address weight with children



In this Monday, Oct. 29, 2018 file photo, kids eat lunch at an elementary school in Paducah, Ky.

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Red, yellow, green. It's a system for conveying the healthfulness of foods, and at the center of a debate about how to approach weight loss for children.

This month, the company formerly known as Weight Watchers provoked a backlash when it introduced a food tracking app for children as young as 8. The app uses a well-known traffic-light system to classify foods, giving children a weekly limit of 42 "reds," which include steak, peanut butter and chips.

Obesity is a growing public health issue that nobody is sure how to fix, and around one in five children in the U.S. is considered obese, up from one in seven in 2000.

Childhood obesity often leads to adult obesity, and to higher risk for conditions including heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Getting kids to eat well and exercise is crucial, but figuring out how to do that effectively is extremely difficult — and sensitive. For some, the app was a reminder of bad childhood experiences around weight and shame, in public and at home.

"I don't think we appreciate the bias and stigma that families struggling with weight face," said Dr. Stephanie Walsh, medical director of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

That can make it even more stressful for parents worried about their children's health, she said.

There is no easy answer

for achieving a healthy weight, regardless of age. But when it comes to addressing the topic with children, pediatricians and dietitians say there are best practices to consider.

TALKING IT OUT

Parents may feel a conversation is not necessary, particularly with younger children, and that they can alter behavior by making lifestyle changes. But experts say a talk can be constructive, especially if the changes are going to be noticeable.

The key is to approach the subject with kindness and caring, and avoid blaming any of the child's behaviors. Children should also understand that any changes would be intended to make them feel better, and not about how they look.

As uncomfortable as addressing the issue may seem, failure to do so may make a child feel worse if they're being teased at school or feeling bad about themselves.

"In some ways, just to get it out there may be sort of a relief," said Tommy Tomlinson, an author who re-

Associated Press

counted his lifelong struggle with weight in "The Elephant in the Room."

MAKING CHANGES

Any adjustments to meals and activities should involve the entire family, so children don't feel singled out. This is tied to the belief that the most powerful way to help a child change their behavior is by setting an example.

Framing changes in a positive light is also key, Walsh said, whether that's suggesting new recipes to try together or asking about activities they might be interested in.

"Keep things upbeat," she said.

Then there is the matter of giving guidance on foods. Parents might not like the idea of directing children to a dieting company's app, especially since it gives older children the option to "upgrade" to a coaching service that costs \$69 a month.

The company that now calls itself WW says the app is based on Stanford Children's Health's Weight Control Program, but views vary on the traffic-light system.

Dr. Sarah Hampl, a pediatrician specializing in weight management at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, said it can be an easy way to understand a complicated topic. Experts say the system can help adults eat better as well.

But Kaitlin Reid, a registered dietitian at UCLA, said it's a way of classifying foods as good and bad, which should be avoided. Seeing any foods as bad might result in feeling guilty whenever eating them.

WHAT TO AVOID

When Tomlinson was 11 or 12, he was taken to a doctor who gave him diet pills. Few health professionals would do that today, and there's broad agreement on other mistakes to avoid. Using the word "diet," for example, could imply there's something wrong with the child, and that the changes are short-term.

Trying to scare children by warning them about potential medical problems isn't helpful either.

And if parents are making broader lifestyle changes, they shouldn't feel the need to intervene or scold every time a child reaches for a sweet.

"Guilt and blame are not good motivators for change," said Stephen Pont, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas Dell Medical School.

By the same token, experts say parents should avoid making negative comments about their own bodies.

Regardless of whether parents see noticeable changes right away, Pont said, there are long-term benefits of instilling healthier habits in children. □

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Brad Pitt goes deep into space, masculinity in 'Ad Astra'

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — "Ad Astra" looks and sounds like a space epic with a movie star lead in Brad Pitt, but there's a lot more going on beneath the surface. Pitt said Thursday at the Venice International Film Festival that he and director James Gray are really digging into the idea of masculinity.

"Having grown up in an era where you're taught to be strong and not show weakness ... there is certain value in that but there's also a barrier that's created denying those pains or those things you feel ashamed to reveal," Pitt said. "I think we were asking the question: Is a better definition for us actually being more open divining a better relationship with your loved ones, with your parents, with your kids, and with yourself?"

"Ad Astra" follows Pitt's detached astronaut charac-



Actor Brad Pitt poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Ad Astra' at the 76th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019.

ter Roy McBride on a journey to the outer reaches of space to find his estranged father, a famous astronaut himself who has long been thought dead.

In addition to starring, Pitt also produced the film which he said was one of the most challenging he's ever done. Not only did he and Gray use primarily practical sets (he laughed

that he and friend George Clooney "exchanged some discomfort stories" about the strings and rigs used to simulate anti-gravity in space films) but it's an emotionally taxing role as well. Pitt had to draw on personal pains and wounds to make his performance as honest as possible. Gray, who has been a friend of

Pitt's for 25 years, would send him emails every day revealing ideas from his own life that would help set the tone for whatever was needed for that particular day on set.

"We don't have a normal male relationship, we've always been quite open about our foibles and had big laughs at our embarrassing moments and (been) open about our feelings about our perceived failures or missteps," Pitt said. "It was a really unique experience."

Gray said he thinks it's important that actors don't "worry about being liked or hated or sympathetic or unsympathetic."

"You can only worry about being honest about who you are and be vulnerable and open," he added.

The film had its world premiere at the 76th edition of the Venice festival and is in competition for the Golden Lion, alongside

films like "Joker" and "Marriage Story." Past winners like "The Shape of Water" and "Roma" have in recent years gone on to win or gain best picture nominations come Oscar time. But when asked about the Oscar prospects of "Ad Astra," Pitt, who has yet to win an Oscar for acting despite being nominated twice, deflected.

"Every year I see amazing talent getting acknowledged and amazing talent not getting acknowledged. And my feeling is when your number comes up it's great fun and when someone else's number comes up it's very fun to see," Pitt said. "How was that for a dodge?"

His focus right now is simply finally releasing the film to the public. "Ad Astra's" release date has been pushed back a few times, as Fox integrated its release schedule with Disney after the acquisition. □

Freeform finds audience with its millennial-first approach

By KATIE CAMPIONE

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yara Shahidi had a question: Why did it seem like men were disproportionately labeled geniuses compared to women in the same professions?

As it turns out, the writers on Shahidi's Freeform series "grown-ish" were wondering the same thing, and the actress' mention of the topic made the writers want to

explore it in the show.

The idea would soon come to fruition in an episode that had Shahidi's Zoey and her friends grappling with the issue. It would also remind the 19-year-old actress that she works for a network that fills a gap in television by not only creating content for young people, but by giving them a voice behind the scenes, too. The result is shows that they, and their audience,

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This March 3, 2018 file photo shows actress Yara Shahidi at the Chanel Pre-Oscar Dinner in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

feel represented by. The approach has allowed Freeform to gain an audience with TV's most valuable age demographic. From May 2018 to May 2019, Freeform had nine of the top 50 original scripted series among women aged 18 to 34, which was more than any other cable network, according to Nielsen ratings.

Freeform's top shows include "grown-ish," a spinoff from ABC's "black-ish" about a group of college students navigating issues from systemic racism to defining relationships; "The Bold Type," which follows three young women navigating careers in magazine journalism; and "Good Trouble," a spinoff from ABC Family's "The Fosters" that focuses on an unlikely group of friends who share a communal living space in downtown Los Angeles. Freeform, formerly known as ABC Family, rebranded in 2016 to lose the "family" appeal and narrowly target new adults — or, as Freeform President Tom Ascheim describes them, "basically legal adults" who "haven't quite yet found their way in the world."

Since then, very little is off limits on Freeform. Characters may explore their sexuality and navigate white privilege in the same episode. "The Bold Type" actress Aisha Dee said that unabashedly targeting young millennials (anyone born between 1981 and 1996)

and Gen Zers (anyone born after 1996) has allowed the network to tell more relatable stories.

"They've always pushed the envelope, I think more than people gave them credit for, but now it's just like this really special thing where you get to see so many different types of people represented and different stories," Dee said. Before the switch to Freeform, the network pushed boundaries with shows like "The Secret Life of the American Teenager," which debuted in 2008 and tackled teenage pregnancy. From there, shows like "Pretty Little Liars" and "The Fosters" offered a less restrained portrayal of themes from sex and sexuality to race and class.

Actress Francia Raisa, who appeared on "Secret Life" and now stars in "grown-ish," said the rebrand has led to bolder storytelling.

"Even some of the stuff that we were talking about as the seasons progressed (on 'Secret Life'), I saw that they were still kind of trying to dim it down a little bit like it was too much," she said. "I've definitely seen it grow and progress, and I love it so much because they're really trying to target that younger audience and it's not so much of a fantasy anymore."

Millennials are projected to surpass Baby Boomers as the largest age demographic in the United States this year, according to the Pew Center for Research.

That means they're also on track to become the most desirable and most targeted television audience, said TV analyst Larry Gerbrandt.

With the rise of streaming platforms, younger generations are also becoming less likely to have a cable subscription at all, so Freeform sends all of its content next-day to Hulu. "These days you have to differentiate yourself somehow to stand out," Gerbrandt said. The young characters on Freeform aren't solving small-town crimes or warding off evil spirits. They're finding jobs, going to college classes, and defining relationships — and the stories don't always end in the characters' favors.

While millennials have been branded by some as entitled and lazy, at Freeform they are revered.

"This is a generation that probably has more on their plate than any generation since the Vietnam War, honestly, in terms of environment, politics, gender..." 'grown-ish' creator Kenya Barris said. "If anything, I think this is a really interesting time for them to talk about things from safe places to this and that. Why are we not sort of embracing that conversation?"

Barris said that he takes inspiration for the show from his Gen Z daughter, who Shahidi's character, Zoey, is based on. For him, authenticity is everything. Even the writers' room is predominantly millennials. □

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Inspired by Fela, Nigeria's Burna Boy blazes trail in the US

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Burna Boy was only six years old when Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti passed away, but that was enough time for the future musician to be inspired.

"Everyone's got their hero," the 28-year-old Nigerian performer said. "For me, that's my hero."

Kuti — the Nigerian musical icon and political agitator whose life and legacy was portrayed in the wildly popular Broadway musical "Fela!" — was once managed by Burna Boy's grandfather, someone else he calls a hero.

With a direct line to African musical royalty, it might seem serendipitous that Burna Boy was hand-picked to participate in the soundtrack for one of 2019's most anticipated films, a story which follows the journey of a family —



Recording artist Burna Boy poses for a portrait on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, in New York.

regal in their own right — that happened to be set in his home continent: "The Lion King."

But despite Beyoncé curating the album and the worldwide attention the film garnered, Burna Boy, whose real name is Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu, isn't feeling the pressure.

"Pressure is a man that is wondering how he's going to feed his five kids today,"

he said. "And I wasn't feeling that."

His song appears on "The Lion King: The Gift," which was inspired by the film and features several Beyoncé songs (the pop star voices the character Nala in the movie.) It's possible that many Americans hadn't heard of Burna Boy before his appearance on the soundtrack with his song "Ja Ara E," a Nigerian slang

phrase that means to "wise up" or "use your head" — generally cautioning someone to avoid peer pressure. Queen Bey flew him to Los Angeles to record the song, although he admitted he didn't really have any interactions with her. "It's 'Lion King' — it's something that we've all grown up with and something that I was very happy to do," he said.

But outside of the U.S., Burna Boy has been a very familiar face around the globe and on global music charts. July was a big month for the performer: A week after the Beyoncé album was released, he dropped his fourth album, "African Giant."

Claiming to have coined the term "Afro-Fusion," a genre that stitches together Caribbean influences, R&B and pop all threaded by Afrobeat, only a man with his confidence would give his album such a gar-

gantuan title. But while he tapped popular figures such as Future, Jeremih and YG for his latest project, he's not setting out to chase western fame.

"One thing about America is Americans are real people. So it's like if they see that you're real, this is real, then they're gonna relate to it," he said.

More American eyes were centered on Burna Boy in June at the BET Awards, where he was named best international artist. His mother, who steers most of his career, provided one of the signature moments of the show when she appeared onstage to accept his award.

"The message from Burna, I believe, would be that every black person should please remember that you were Africans before you became anything else," said Bose Ogulu, who received a standing ovation from the audience. □

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